



STOP PRESS ...

Christmas Market update ...

Final total raised: £4,599.68

This is a fantastic achievement, and huge thanks go out to absolutely everyone involved.

This year's Christmas Market raised an amazing £4,599.68 – a brilliant achievement in just three hours! "We are so very grateful to everyone who came along and generously supported this wonderful event, knowing that the monies raised will go towards helping others in need" said Revd Edward Doyle, one of the organising committee.

The stars of the show were Rogate School Carol Singers who were a ray of sunshine on this chilly, grey morning. Not letting the weather bother them in the slightest, they gave a fabulous performance on the steps of the Village Hall to open the event, delighting the gathered crowd which included many proud parents and families.

After much cheering, everyone poured into the hall where the smell of mince pies and mulled wine filled the air and a variety of stalls tempted market-goers with a gorgeous array of wares. From, Advent calendars, bric-a-brac and second-hand children's clothes, there was definitely something for everyone.

The Present Stall returned this year and was extremely popular, selling gifts that were brand new but at a fraction of the original price. Shoppers also snapped up bargains in the form of delicious home-made jams, chutneys and cakes and children carried off armfuls of goodies from the toy stall. Another favourite was the Christmas Candy Jars - filled to the brim with all kinds of sweet treats and a prize every time, who could possibly resist!

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East Lodge (retirement home) did a roaring trade with their carefully crafted hand-knits, and soft toys and the kitchen did a marvellous job, serving refreshments and lunches.

Alongside the stalls were our regular traditional sideshows where visitors tried their luck at Bottle Tombola and the Grand Raffle which had a spectacular selection of prizes including a top prize of £200 cash! Congratulations to the lucky winner from Rogate.

Younger ones were kept busy at the Children's Activity Corner with biscuit decorating, fun games and colouring. Entries for the colouring competition were of a very high standard again this year and judging was very difficult. After much deliberation, the best ones were chosen and art prizes were awarded to; Martha Rea (Rake School) and Lilly Watts (Rogate School) in the 8-11 age group and in the 4-7 age group; Hugo Benstead (Rake School) and Sophie Dixon, who hasn't started school yet! – well done all of you. The prizes were kindly donated by Academy Arts and Crafts in Winton Road, Petersfield.

Children also got to meet Father Christmas in his fabulous grotto, complete with his sack full of gifts for all his visitors.

The event has been running for many years now and involves the whole community. Local businesses help to cover the costs of running the event and donate the many raffle prizes. Local people give up their time and talent and provide gifts and produce for sale, others buy raffle tickets or simply come along and support the event on the day, and it's great to have the involvement of our school children and their families. It truly embodies the spirit of giving at Christmas time.

As a thank you to Rogate School Carol Singers, we are delighted to share with them the takings from the donation buckets, plus a bit extra for battling the cold, wet weather! The collection from the buckets came to £226.97, but we have rounded it up to £250.00!

The charities that will benefit from the funds raised this year are; Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice, Stonepillow Recovery Service and Rogate Parish Emergencies Fund.

About the charities

Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice – supporting local children and young adults with progressive life-shortening conditions. Chestnut Tree House is the children's hospice for East and West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and South East Hampshire. A registered charity, it first opened in 2003 and now cares for 300 life-limited children. The charity offers support for the whole family including psychological and bereavement support, end of life and short break care and sibling support. Whilst it currently costs over £3.9 million each year to provide all the care services, families are never charged for their care. At Chestnut Tree House their goal is to provide the best quality of life for children, young people and their families and to offer practical, social and spiritual support throughout each child's life, however short it may be.

Stonepillow Recovery Service – supporting rehabilitation of people in the community with drug and/or alcohol problems. Stonepillow Recovery Service is a community based, 12-bed residential rehabilitation service. It is designed for people who are abstinent from substances and require stabilisation, and also as a second stage for people who have completed a rehabilitation programme. The service is able to provide support to those who also experience mental health problems, working with local mental health teams to deliver this. The Recovery Service is unique in West Sussex. They work with their residents to assist them, not only with their abstinence, but also with their long-term aims of health, employment, family and community.

Rogate Parish Emergencies Fund – supporting causes at home and abroad. This fund, set up some years ago, enables our parish to provide immediate financial assistance to those in crisis, as soon as the need arises. It allows us to respond to national and international emergencies, such as the recent charity appeals for emergency medical aid to alleviate the suffering of families in Gaza and for aid to Indonesia, following the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami. It also allows us to support those in need in our local community, where we have been able to help those most vulnerable. Having the fund in place means we can be responsive to appeals and swift in our giving, which is often critical.